

April 14, 1982

Memo to File:

RE: Atlas Minerals Corporation
Far West Mine
Rule M-7 Inspection
ACT/037/019
San Juan County, Utah

On April 7, 1982, Susan Linner and Tom Tetting of the Division met with Ricky Broschat, Reclamation Scientist for Atlas Minerals, at the mine offices on the Far West minesite. A discussion was held concerning the approved revegetation test plots. At this time Atlas has cleared and leveled the areas, but anticipat~~s~~ no further action in the near future. We strongly suggested that implementation of the test plots was a condition for approval of the overall reclamation contract by the Board. The development of a mutually agreeable timetable for implementing the test plots was suggested.

After this discussion, a tour of the Far West minesite was made. This mine has been in suspension since January 15, 1979. Since the operation has been suspended for more than two years, the site visit was considered an inspection in accordance with Rule M-7 of the Mine Land Reclamation Act (1975). The Far West mine is the site of all administrative offices and shops for Atlas Minerals. It is also a storage area for all equipment brought in from the other suspended mining operations. Since the area is constantly in use, Atlas wishes to keep the mine in a suspended state and not undergo final reclamation procedures.

The mine shaft itself has been closed with a wire mesh fence. There are no perennial or intermittent streams in the area. All ephemeral stream channels had been culverted in the mine yard. A culvert draining the pad where equipment is cleaned drains into a large ephemeral drainage on the southwest side of the minesite. Oil from the pad is being discharged into the drainage directly, killing vegetation in the area where the culvert enters, and leaving oily pools standing in the same area. Another area of concern noted was in the small canyon on the north side of the mine facilities which has been used as a garbage dump. Scrap metal and trash has been deposited haphazardly throughout the canyon and in smaller canyons off to the side. Walking up the canyon, one comes to a point where it narrows considerably. At this point a channel coming down from above splits into two channels which run along each side of the canyon. No effort has been made to keep trash out of these side drainages, or to keep any water that might flow into the canyon from being contaminated.

In conclusion, it is suggested that the Far West Mine be kept in a suspended state due to its constant use as an office and shopsite. It is also recommended that a letter be sent to the operator requesting that oil be kept from entering the one drainage area, and that the trash heaps be consolidated and cleaned up, so that any runoff entering the area will not be polluted.

SUSAN C. LINNER *SCL*
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

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